

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

**MILES et al**

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Examiner:

For: REQUIREMENTS MATCHING

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December 11, 2000

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Prior to calculation of the filing fee and in order to place the above identified application in better condition for examination, please amend the claims as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS (AS ON THE AMENDED SHEETS)**

Claim 4, line 1, delete "any one of claims 1 to 3" and insert -- claim 1 --.

Claim 6, line 1, delete "or claim 5".

8. (Amended) A system according to Claim 7, wherein each broker of the system is a broker [according to Claim 1] having:

an input for receiving a user request message by means of said communications network, wherein a user request message includes an identifier for the sender of the request message and a specification of user requirements; and

routing means for forwarding a received user request message to a destination determined by said routing means and accessible by means of said communications network, wherein said routing means comprise:

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